



Village Manager's Report Week ending August 25, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 28:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, August 29:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, August 30:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, August 31:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, September 1:
 - No meetings scheduled

RFQ issued for Historic Preservation Architectural Services – A request for qualifications (RFQ) was issued this week to solicit qualifications from interested architectural firms to provide Historic Preservation Architectural Services to evaluate the feasibility of renovating the current Village Hall facility to meet the needs of modern Village governance while preserving the historic integrity of the existing building and the spirit of open government. [Click here to view this RFQ](#). Responses are due to the Public Works Director by 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 14.

Excessive heat response – The Village responded to severe weather this week by providing resources to residents and guidance for how to stay safe during excessive heat over the course of several days. The Public Health Department and Office of Communications used the Village's emergency alert system and social media channels to help residents find local cooling centers, offer guidance to those caring for children or older adults, and provide tips on how to keep pets safe in extreme heat. Health Department staff used the mobile response van to deliver 50 cases of water to community partners, including Live4Lali's street outreach team, all three branches of the Oak Park Library, Housing Forward, the Oak Park Township, local churches and Oak Park River Forest High School. Health department staff also distributed water to community members in local parks and provided cases of water to the Police Department to distribute to anyone outside in the heat.

Economic vitality update – The Village collected \$126,318 in hotel/motel tax through the first six months of the year, marking the highest six-month total on record and exceeding by 14% the totals from the same time period in 2022. Short-term, Airbnb-type rentals are driving the surge in revenue generated by through the Village's longstanding 4% tax, which

applies to stays in Oak Park's hotel, bed and breakfast and short-term rentals. The increases continue to provide a strong indicator that vitality has returned to the hospitality industry in the Oak Park area.

Hemingway Business District update – This week, a group of dedicated local business representatives from the Hemingway Business District met officially for the second time in their efforts to re-start the longstanding business association. Village staff from the Development Customer Services Department continues to assist the group with its planning and district formation efforts.

Police to assist with prescription drugs disposal – The Oak Park Police Department will team up with State Representative Camille L. Lilly, State Senator Don Harmon and Chicago Alderman Chris Taliaferro at a free paper shredding event this Sat., Aug. 26 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 6700 W. North Ave. in Chicago (old U.S. Bank parking lot). OPPD will be on hand to accept and safely dispose of prescription drugs during the final hour of the event from noon until 1 p.m. Residents can safely dispose of expired and unwanted prescription medicines 24 hours a day in the lobby of the Police Department on the lower level at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. A disposal box is also in the [Oak Park Township](#) parking lot located at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. No liquids and no sharps are allowed.

International Overdose Awareness Day event – The community is invited to an International Overdose Awareness Day remembrance and resource fair from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Thurs., Aug. 31 in Scoville Park. The event is coordinated by Oak Park Township's Opioid Task force and will include local resources, overdose reversal training, and prevention and harm reduction education. The Oak Park Public Health Department will be on hand sharing information about the [Village's opioid overdose prevention project](#) that includes free Narcan pouches available in boxes throughout the community. Other participating community partners include Live4Lali, the Way Back Inn, Riveredge Hospital and the Community Mental Health Board.

School zone traffic safety – With the new school year underway, the Oak Park Police Department is urging motorists to stay alert – especially when driving in school zones. To protect the many students who typically trek along Oak Park streets to their neighborhood schools, police are stepping up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. Motorists need to be focused and avoid distractions like talking on cell phones as well as come to a complete stop at intersections and not block crosswalks. Drivers also must obey the signals of crossing guards and should never attempt to pass a stopped school bus with lights flashing. Questions can be directed to police@oak-park.us.

West Nile Virus remains a concern – The [Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) is reporting a continued increase in levels of West Nile Virus within the adult mosquito population to the level where transmission to humans is likely. Residents are urged to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites by dumping or disposing of water holding containers that will attract and produce mosquitoes. For more information about protecting against West Nile Virus, visit www.oak-park.us/fightthebite or email health@oak-park.us.

Tenant workshop for renters – Approximately 40 people participated in a workshop for renters hosted by the Village on Wednesday at Village Hall. A range of topics were covered during the meeting, including tenant’s rights, lease agreements and the Village’s Tenant Landlord Ordinance.

Employee news – The Health Department welcomed Yanni Kaldis as the newest Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner this week. Yanni earned his undergraduate degree in biology from University of Illinois and Master of Public Health degree from Loyola University. He joins an environmental health team that manages restaurant and grocery store inspections, lead risk assessments and more.

Sustainability update – The Oak Park Public Library is hosting a new Earth Lounge Environmental Book Discussion Series the last Wednesday of the month from August through November. Participants will explore the curiosities and complexities of nature, environmentalism and sustainability through fiction and nonfiction literature. The first discussion is set for 6 p.m. next Wed., Aug. 30 in the Main Library Small Meeting Room and will focus on “We Are the Weather” by Jonathan Safran Foer. More information is on the Library website – [click here to view](#). Find information about other community events related to sustainability on the Village’s Sustain Oak Park website at www.sustainoakpark.com/community-events.

Water and sewer improvements – This week the contractor installed new water main on Augusta Street between Humphrey Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Next steps include pressure testing and chlorinating the new section of water main to locate any leaks in the pipe. If leaks are detected, the water main will be repaired and retested. New combined sewer and service laterals have also been installed between Humphrey and Austin. Augusta Street remains closed to through traffic between Austin and Lombard Avenue.

Forest and Ontario improvements – The electric contractor is continuing to bore the conduit for new lighting features. The conduit in the roadway is being open cut with single lanes of traffic closed while work is ongoing. Plates or temporary trench fill will be used to re-open both lanes of traffic by the end of each day.

Alley lighting project – Crews spent the week replacing lights in alleys between South Boulevard and Madison Street. Roughly 500 alley lights have been replaced so far as part of the ongoing project to install more than 1,000 new energy efficient LED bulbs.

Pete’s Fresh Market update – The contractor overseeing construction of the new Pete’s Fresh Market on Madison Street is scheduling restoration work along Euclid Avenue. The work will take place on between Madison and Randolph streets and is expected to start within a month following Village approval.

Division Street improvements – Weather slowed the progress of dirt placement in parkways, but the work should be completed in the coming days. The contractor anticipates placing the final roadway surface next week.

Miscellaneous construction updates – All concrete and asphalt has been placed in alleys undergoing repairs this summer and all remaining punch list items associated with the project should be complete by early September. Elsewhere, the masonry façade is complete on the southeast elevation of the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets, bathroom tile installation is wrapping up and ceiling grid work for the garage is set to begin next week. The Nicor Gas sewer televising project continued this week with crews working in the 1000 block of S. Scoville Ave. and the 6000 block of W. Roosevelt Rd.